

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 8 and 14 have been amended¹. Claims 4, 11 and 17 have been canceled. Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-16 and 18-20 are now pending in the application. The rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein.

As a preliminary matter, it appears that Examiner has not considered the four (4) foreign patent documents submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 13, 2005. Applicants respectfully request Examiner to consider these references and attach the initialed and signed copy of the PTO/SB/08 form to the next Office communication.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) - Saito

Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 13-15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Saito (U.S. Patent Number 6,275,889). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claim 1, Applicants' invention relates to:

[a] data transmission system comprising:

a plurality of information transmitters connected to nodes on a bus, for transmitting/receiving data through a connection established between the nodes;

a connection establishing device for establishing a connection at each node;

¹ Support for these claim amendments is found in the specification on at least page 21, lines 11-19.

a connection status information holding device for holding connection status information indicating a managing status of isochronous resources as bus resources while updating it during the execution of the connection establishment at each node;

a connection status information referring device for referring to the connection status information; and

a processing executing device for executing predetermined processing to avoid unmanageable status of the isochronous resources when it is determined that the managing status of the bus resources is out of a permissible range,

wherein the managing status of the isochronous resources indicated by the connection status information includes, in addition to an unknown status, a valid status, an invalid status, and a status of processing being executed.

Examiner maintains that Saito teaches each feature of the claimed invention. However, Saito fails to teach or suggest “a connection status information holding device for holding connection status information indicating a managing status of isochronous resources as bus resources while updating it during the execution of the connection establishment at each node.” The Examiner states on page 3 of the Office Action that Saito teaches a connection status information holding device for holding connection status information indicating a managing status of bus resources, however, this assertion is incorrect.

Saito merely discloses a plug control register (PCR) which indicates a status of a device connected to a bus. Saito’s bus resources refer only to devices connected to a bus. Therefore, there is no connection status information in Saito which indicates a managing status of isochronous resources as bus resources. On the contrary, the claimed invention recites that the

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“connection status information indicates a managing status of isochronous resources as bus resources.”

Furthermore, Saito also fails to teach or suggest “wherein the managing status of the isochronous resources indicated by the connection status information includes, in addition to an unknown status, a valid status, an invalid status, and a status of processing being executed,” as recited in claim 1. The Examiner has readily admitted these deficiencies of Saito on pages 5-6 of the Office Action.

At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicants’ claim 1 is patentable over Saito. Applicants’ claims 8 and 14 are related method and apparatus claims respectively, and are allowable for analogous reasons as discussed above. Applicants’ claims {2 and 6}, {9 and 13} and {15 and 19} are dependent claims including all of the elements of independent claims 1, 8 and 14 respectively, which as established above, distinguished over Saito. Therefore, claims 2, 6, 9, 13, 15 and 19 are distinguished over Saito for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for their additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) –Saito in view of Ishida et al.

Claims 3-5, 7, 10-12, 16-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Saito in view of Ishida et al. (U.S. Patent Application Number 6,839,347; hereinafter “Ishida”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

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As discussed above, the Examiner admits on pages 5-6 of the Office Action that Saito fails to teach or suggest “wherein the managing status of the isochronous resources indicated by the connection status information includes, in addition to an unknown status, a valid status, an invalid status, and a status of processing being executed,” as recited in claim 1.

Ishida does not remedy the deficiencies of Saito. Although the Examiner has relied on Ishida et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,839,347) for the teaching of connection status information comprising status designations, Ishida merely discloses error status information (HCE) which only indicates whether or not there was an error in a packet (column 16, lines 32-33). Therefore, Ishida fails to teach or suggest indicating managing status including, in addition to an unknown status, a valid status, an invalid status, and a status of processing being executed, as recited in claim 1.

At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicants’ claim 1 is patentable over Saito in view of Ishida. Applicants’ claims 8 and 14 are related method and apparatus claims respectively, and are allowable for analogous reasons as discussed above. Applicants’ claims {3, 5 and 7}, {10 and 12} and {16, 18 and 20} are dependent claims including all of the elements of independent claims 1, 8 and 14 respectively, which as established above, distinguished over Saito in view of Ishida. Therefore, claims 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 16, 18 and 20 are distinguished over Saito in view of Ishida for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for their additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

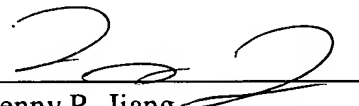
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